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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE
TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the
Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Fifteenth session,
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agenda item 6 (b))

EXPLOSIVES (CLASS 1)

Test methods for exclusion from Class 1

Transmitted by the Expert from Sweden

Introduction

During the meeting of the informal working group on test 6 (c) held in Orlando, United States, Canada agreed to develop a test method for articles that could be excluded from Class 1. In the meeting of the group held in Washington (see ST/SG/AC.10/C.3/1998/10) such a proposal was presented.

The method was discussed, but no consensus was reached. Furthermore several delegations expressed their interest in such a test, but there were disagreements on various points of the proposal.

Classification of air bags in Class 2

In spring 1998, Swedish authorities have been approached by representatives from the industry who expressed interest in having air bags re-classified from Class 1 (1.4 G and/or 1.4 S) or from Class 9 into the new UN entry in Class 2 (UN No 3353).

Since these air bags are of the new hybrid gas generator generation, but still contains certain amounts of pyrotechnical compositions, the Swedish authorities hesitate to take that decision. In our legal system an article that contains explosives can not be classified in Class 2, unless that article is formally excluded from Class 1. To make this exclusion, tests have to be made in accordance with an internationally accepted test method.

Conclusions

We see a direct need of a test method for exclusion from Class 1. This method should be made on unpackaged articles. If, during the test, no projection, fire, smoke or noise external to the device is observed and if the articles outside temperature have changed (risen) less then XX*/ °C these articles could be excluded from Class 1.

*Note: */XX °C is to be determined later.*

Sweden therefore strongly supports the idea of a new test method for determining whether an article may be excluded from Class 1.
